

REMARKS

These remarks are responsive to the Examiner's action mailed November 9, 2007. All rejections and objections of the Office Action have been herein addressed. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of these remarks and amendments.

Claims 1-40 are pending.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-16, 18, 19 and 22-30 have been allowed.

Claims 38-40 stand rejected.

Claims 24 and 38 have been herein amended.

Claims 1, 9, 16 and 24 are independent.

The Office Action rejects claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on U.S. Patent No. 5,258,979 to Oomura, et al. (Oomura '979). In the interest of furthering the case to allowance, claim 38 has been herein amended to depend from allowed claim 1. Claim 38 has been further amended to correct objections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claim 24 has been amended for minor grammatical inconsistencies. As the remaining objected and rejected claims depend from claim 38, it is respectfully submitted that all claims in the case are now in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is therefore requested.

Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3735.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-9660, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

/CJL/

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